Approved for Release: 2017/08/31 C06629426

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TOT: 072017Z MAR 83 CIA 490641

----------S E C R E T NOFORN

WNINTEL (b)(1)
(b)(3)

072017ZCIA 490641
TO: PRIORITY DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, TREASURY DEPT, NPIC,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (b)(1)
STAFF, ZEN/ (b)(3)
USCINCSO QHTS PANAMA.

SERIAL:
DIST: 7 MARCH 1983 PASS: NSA FOR ZKZK OO DLS DE (FOR NSOC); STATE FOR INR; (b)(3)
USCINCSO FOR J-2.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.
REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WNINTEL--NOFORN- (b)(1)
COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR (b)(3)
SUBJ: DISCUSSION BETWEEN PRESIDENT ALVARO MAGANA AND
COLONEL ADOLFO O. BLANDON ON THE STATUS OF THE
MINISTER OF DEFENSE
DOI: (b)(1)
SOURCE: (b)(3)

TEXT: 1. (b)(1)
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ACCORDING TO BLANDON, PRESIDENT ALVARO ((MAGANA))
TOLD HIM THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL JOSE (b)(1)
GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)) WOULD LEAVE HIS POST BY 15 MARCH, OR AT THE (b)(3)
LATEST, BY THE APRIL ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT MAGANA'S FIRST YEAR
IN OFFICE. PRESIDENT MAGANA SAID HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE SIT-
UATION IN THE ARMED FORCES AND GENERAL GARCIA'S CAMPAIGN TO REMAIN
IN OFFICE. THE PRESIDENT ALSO NOTED THAT
HE WAS AWARE OF THE MINISTER'S INTEREST IN PUNISHING SENIOR
ARMED FORCES OFFICERS WHO ARE CALLING FOR HIS RESIGNATION.
ACCORDING TO BLANDON, PRESIDENT MAGANA SAID THAT GENERAL GARCIA;
GENERAL CARLOS EUGENIO ((VIDES)) CASANOVA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
NATIONAL GUARD; COLONEL RAFAEL ((FLORES)) LIMA,
SUB-MINISTER OF DEFENSE; AND COLONEL CARLOS REYNALDO ((LOPEZ)) NUILA,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, HAD APPROACHED HIM WITH

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A PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER COLONEL BLANDON TO LA UNION DEPARTMENT BUT HE REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL. THE PRESIDENT COMMENTED THAT SUCH A MOVE PROBABLY WOULD IGNITE A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ARMED FORCES OFFICERS AND GENERAL GARCIA.

2. ACCORDING TO BLANDON, PRESIDENT MAGANA SAID THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. EMBASSY IN EL SALVADOR HAD EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN GENERAL GARCIA'S REMAINING IN OFFICE. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD TO CONSIDER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WHILE TRYING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS IN THE ARMED FORCES.

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3. COLONEL BLANDON SAID THAT IT WOULD HELP STABILIZE THE SITUATION IN THE ARMED FORCES IF GENERAL GARCIA LEFT HIS POST ON 15 MARCH RATHER THAN IN APRIL. HE TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT DISCONTENT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW IN THE ARMED FORCES UNTIL GARCIA STEPS DOWN. COLONEL BLANDON CLAIMED THAT HE TOO WANTED TO AVOID FURTHER INSTABILITY IN THE ARMED FORCES AND HE WOULD EVEN ACCEPT AN OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT IF THE PRESIDENT CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY. COLONEL BLANDON SAID THAT IF THE MINISTER PERSISTED IN ATTEMPTING TO PUNISH HIM, THE TROOPS OF THE FIRST BRIGADE WOULD FIND IT UNACCEPTABLE. BLANDON ALSO NOTED THAT 17 COMMANDERS WERE READY TO SUPPORT HIM AGAINST ANY ATTEMPTS BY THE MINISTER TO REMOVE HIM FROM COMMAND OF THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE OR ANY OTHER ATTEMPT BY GARCIA TO REDUCE BLANDON'S AUTHORITY. ACCORDING TO BLANDON, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST HIM OR OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS WHO ARE CALLING FOR THE MINISTER'S RESIGNATION.

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ACQ:
FIELD NO

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DISSEM:

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING NOTICE--INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS--NOT

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